

# LOGGERHEAD TURTLE FACTS!

How much do you know about these beautiful sea creatures?

Take a big breath and get ready to dive deep – because it's time to meet one seriously cool sea creature with our **loggerhead turtle facts**!



## Fast loggerhead turtle facts

**Scientific name:** Caretta caretta

**Family name:** Cheloniidae

**Classification:** Reptile

**IUCN status:** Vulnerable

**Lifespan (in wild):** 50+ years

**Weight:** 115kg

**Body length:** 90cm

**Diet:** Omnivores, but mostly jellyfish, molluscs and crustaceans

**Habitat:** Oceans

**Range:**



These incredible reptiles got their name from their oversized head, which looks a bit like – you guessed it! – a big log.

They have a large, reddish-brown, hard shell, a pale yellow underbelly (or 'plastron') and four flippers with two (or sometimes three) claws on each.

Loggerhead turtles live in oceans all around the world, except in the coldest seas far north and south, near the Earth's poles. They are the most common turtle species found in the Mediterranean, as well as in the coastal waters off the USA, where they can be seen swimming in the sea or nesting on sandy beaches.

## Food

These magnificent marine creatures mostly **feast on other ocean animals**. Using their strong, powerful jaws, they crush and munch on crunchy critters such as clams, crabs, mussels and sea urchins. They also eat softer foods, too, including jellyfish, seaweed and brown algae.

## Nesting

- Every two or three years, a female turtle travels back to the beach where she hatched as a baby. And it's on this very same beach that she lays her own eggs as an adult...
- She uses her hind flippers to **dig her nesting hole**, before gently laying the eggs inside.
- The eggs hatch about 60 days later. The babies wait underneath the sand until nightfall.
- When it is cooler, the hatchlings pop up and scurry toward the ocean

## Save the turtle!

Loggerheads are **Vulnerable species**, with an estimated 60,000 nesting females left in the wild.

Serious threats include: accidental capture in fishing equipment, pollution and destruction to their nesting beaches, plastics in the oceans

There are lots of charities and conservationist groups working to protect these incredible creatures so that they have a future on our planet.